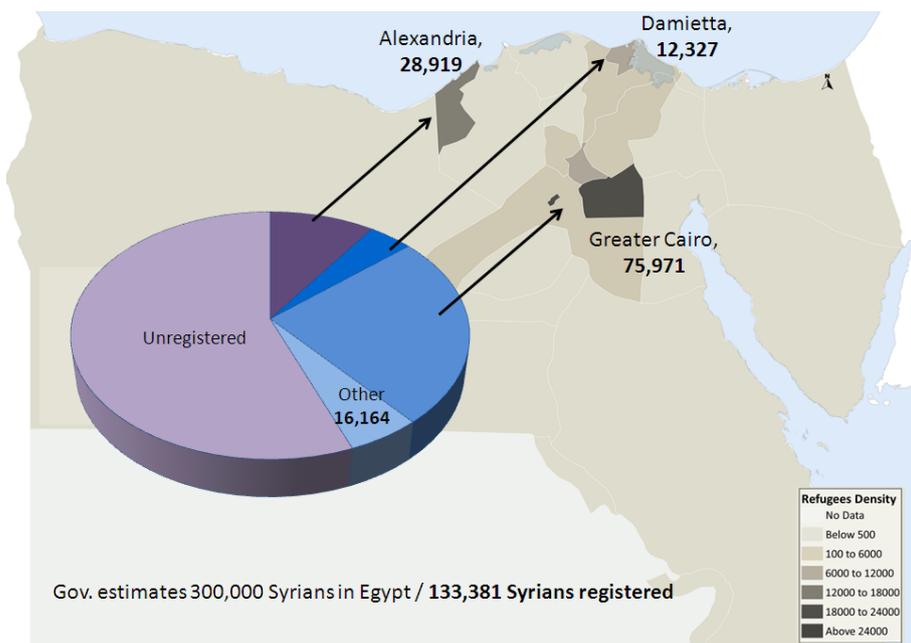


EGYPT WEEKLY UPDATE SYRIAN OPERATION 4-10 February 2014



As the conflict in Syria continues to escalate, the number of people fleeing into other countries in the region in search of refuge has been increasing. Some 300,000 Syrians currently reside in Egypt according to Government estimates provided in June 2013, of whom UNHCR has registered 133,381 individuals as of 8 February. Most Syrians in Egypt are scattered in urban neighbourhoods, renting and sharing accommodation, and benefit from access to public education and health care. UNHCR conducts registration, provides counselling, and works with partners to provide legal assistance and address the social needs of vulnerable Syrians in Egypt. UNHCR also operates hotlines for emergencies and inquiries, and sensitizes refugees of the dangers of involvement in political activities.

Registration of Syrians in Egypt (as of 8 February)

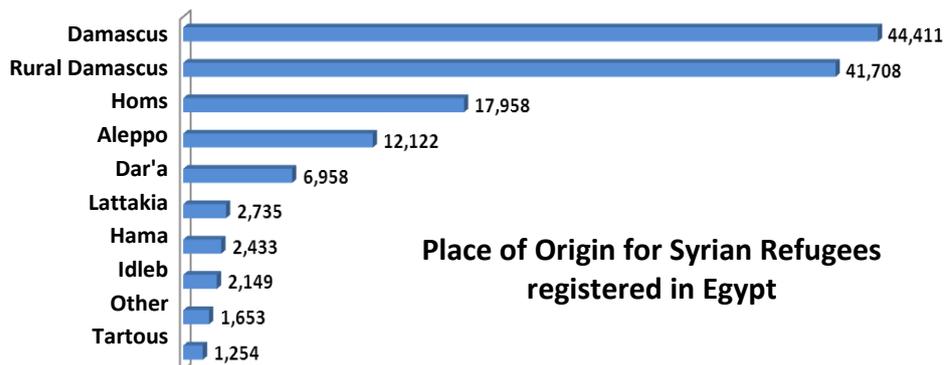
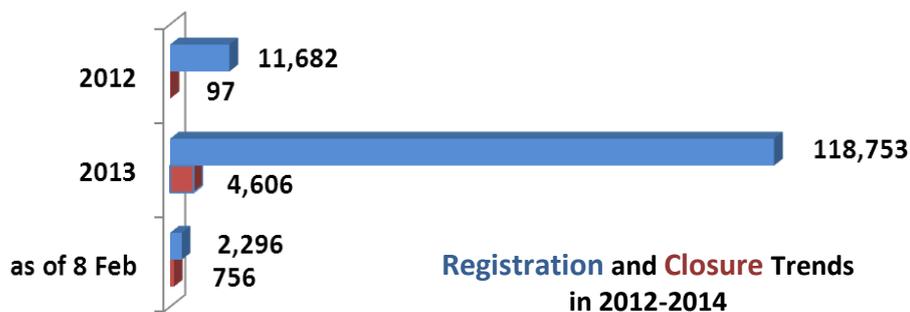


50.5% of registered Syrians arrived to Egypt through a transit country; of those, 76.7% passed through Lebanon, 12.3% through Jordan, and 11% through others countries.

During the week, 486 individuals registered in the Zamalek Registration Centre; 18 persons were identified with specific needs.

Gender and Age Breakdown

Age Group	F	M	Total
0 - 4	8,798	9,212	18,010
5 - 11	11,657	12,464	24,121
12 - 17	7,565	8,566	16,131
18 - 39	24,443	25,553	49,996
40 - 59	9,797	9,705	19,502
60+	2,809	2,812	5,621
Total	65,069	68,312	133,381



Partners:
 Arab Medical Union (AMU) • Care Int/USA • Caritas • Catholic Relief Services (CRS) • Islamic Relief Worldwide • Mahmoud Mosque society • Refuge Egypt • Resala Association • Terre Des Hommes - Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo (PSTIC) • Save the Children • TADAMON • UNFPA • UNHABITAT • UNICEF • WFP • WHO

For further information:
 Teddy Leposky • Associate Reporting Officer
leposky@unhcr.org
 Marwa Hashem • Assistant Public Information Officer
hashemma@unhcr.org

Protection

At the behest of the Government of Egypt, UNHCR has been disseminating an instruction to the Syrian community that if any Syrian is detained, they should present their UNHCR registration card to the police immediately and that it is advisable that they have their residence permit on the card.

On 3 February UNHCR conducted an awareness session for 37 Syrian refugees residing in Obour City. The session focused on the dangerous consequences of irregular migration from Egypt as well as the importance of respecting Egyptian laws and regulations, and in particular obtaining the residency permits on UNHCR registration cards. The participants were briefed on the services UNHCR and other UN and NGO partners provide to Syrian refugees in Egypt and how to access them. Finally, the session addressed resettlement as a protection tool in an attempt to minimize the expectations around the topic.

UNHCR conducted a field visit and meeting with the Syrian community in Mansoura in preparation for mobile registration of Syrians residing there. The meeting was attended by 8 men and 2 women from the Syrian community, who chose to settle in Mansoura because of available work opportunities and affordable accommodation. The community is holding afternoon classes for Syrian children to assist them in following the Egyptian curriculum. The community mentioned that Syrians have easy access to government hospitals but medicine is very expensive.

UNHCR conducted Best Interest Assessments for eighteen separated children (five girls and thirteen boys) between 1 and 17 years old from Aleppo, Damascus, Homs and Suburban Damascus. Twelve of the children attend school, three are working, and three are toddlers or infants. All children or their caregivers know the whereabouts of at least one of the parents. All the children need financial assistance for rent and to survive. UNHCR referred their cases to IRW for assistance. UNHCR is also following up on the condition of the children and their family members and caregivers.

UNHCR conducted a home visit to an elderly, sick grandmother, who is the sole caregiver of three young children. One of the grandchildren is autistic and needs specialized intervention. UNHCR referred the grandchild to PSTIC for psycho-social assistance.

Voice of a refugee....

My name is Wassim and I am from Aleppo, Syria. I am 56 years old, married with a wife and four children. I arrived by air last year to Egypt along with my family and my mother, who unfortunately, passed away two months ago. I decided to leave Aleppo when I could no longer find even the most basic things like food that my family and I needed to survive. Daily life became a struggle; water, electricity, and gas would sometimes be cut for days. My children's school was closed after the road to it was destroyed. It became so dangerous I could not let them go out, even for a little while to play. This lasted for four months until we realized we had to leave. My wife and I were so concerned over the safety of our children in such an environment and also their future and the need for an education. Although Egyptians have been very hospitable, supportive and empathize with our ongoing crisis, I feel sad and nostalgic for my own home. I miss my country, relatives and my way of life. Nothing can replace the feeling of being in your own country. I am a trader by profession, but since I arrived in Egypt I have not been able to find suitable work, so we are surviving on our savings we brought with us. God only knows how long we can do that.

Education

Caritas' Support Education Training for Inclusion (SETI) Centre launched an online directory of community and government centres providing services to children with disabilities.

UNICEF has increased the number of child friendly spaces (CFS) in Alexandria from 3 to 5 (3 in Borg El Arab, 1 in Montaza, and 1 in Agami), which offer recreational, learning and psycho-social activities. UNICEF is currently working with 2,000 Syrian children in Alexandria and plans to extend services (CFS and case management) to New Damietta.

In coordination with Save the Children, FARD Foundation distributed 368 school bags to Syrian children. They also organized two fun days for children residing in the 6th of October and the 1st Settlement (Tagamoa Al Awal) areas. In addition, FARD continues to distribute diapers for children in Masaken Osman (Greater Cairo).

Health

On 5 February Doctors without Borders (MSF) in partnership with Tadamon held a lecture in the refugee community centre in Faysal (Greater Cairo) on its work in raising health awareness, providing community services, and hosting education campaigns and follow-ups. MSF also provided information about its clinic for survivors of sexual and gender based violence and its health clinic.

